

New Relocation Legislation – Increase in reestablishment expenses limit for farms, non-profit organizations and small businesses.

The Washington State Legislature recently changed RCW 8.26.035 to increase the reestablishment limit from the existing \$10,000 to \$50,000 for farms, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses. This new legislation became effective on Sunday, July 27, 2003. The change in law will not only affect WSDOT but will impact local public agencies as well. WSDOT has made the determination that on its projects any displaced business, farm, or non-profit organization (NPO) that receives a Notice of Eligibility **after** July 27, 2003 is eligible to receive reimbursement for the increased amount. It will be up to each local public agency to determine eligibility for reimbursement of the increased amount on their projects.

WSDOT is currently in the process of making the necessary revisions to WAC 468-100-306 to reflect the new legislation. You will be notified once this process is complete. Revisions to the General Notice and Notice of Eligibility & 90-Day Assurance letters are now complete and available through your local agency coordinator. A revision will be made to Chapter 12 of the WSDOT Right of Way Manual.

The Federal Highway Administration has made the determination that they will participate up to the maximum reestablishment allowed by state law.

Relocation Booklets used on FHWA funded projects can be updated with the addition of the following statement if a local agency chooses WSDOT's method of determining eligibility.

Effective July 27, 2003

The reestablishment limit has been increased from \$10,000 to \$50,000. This will apply to any displaced business, farm, or non-profit organization that receives a Notice of Eligibility after the effective date.

For additional information or questions, please call Dianna Ayers at (360) 705-7329 or Susan Clemen at (360) 705-7325.